



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/713,121	11/14/2003	Masuyuki Sago	0022-3481	9609

7590 09/21/2005

LACKENBACH SIEGEL MARZULLO
ARONSON & GREENSPAN, P.C.

Penthouse Suite
One Chase Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583

EXAMINER

CASIANO, ANGEL L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2182

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/713,121

Applicant(s)

SAGO ET AL.

Examiner

Angel L. Casiano

Art Unit

2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 November 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The present Office action is in response to application dated 14 November 2003.

Claims 1-3 are pending. All claims have been examined.

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because black boxes need to be labeled as to their function (see Figures 1, 3, 5 A-B, and 10 A-B). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.
3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: "15" (see Figures 3, 4A-B, and 5A-B). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.

Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not

Art Unit: 2182

accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

7. Claims 2-3 recite the limitation "indicators" in reference to claim 1. However, while claim 1 does disclose indication information, it does not include "indicators". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

8. Claim 3 recites the limitation "one safe color" and "the other questioned color". The terms "safe" and "questioned" in claim 3 are relative terms, which render the claim indefinite. The terms are not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably appraised of the scope of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shteyn [US 2002/0169914 A1] in view of Jang [KR 2004006551 A].

Regarding claim 1, Shteyn teaches a system having a plurality of connection lines (see Figure 1), to two ends of each of which connector plugs (see “identification pieces embedded into power plugs”, [0012]) with unit capable of untouchably performing, from the outside thereof writing-in operation and reading-out operation of identification information of the same connector plugs are respectively connected (see [0010] and [0012]); plug boards mounted on the distributing system; a plurality of adapters or receptacles, mounted separately on the plug boards and connected respectively to communication lines, for coupling to each of the connector plugs with units capable of untouchably performing, from the outside thereof writing-in operation and reading-out operation of address information of said adapters or receptacles (see “conditional access to network resources”, “resource location”, [0012]); antennas positioned at the neighborhood of each of the adapters or receptacles for untouchably writing-in operation into and reading-out operation of the address information from the unit when each of the connector plugs is coupled to desired one of the a plurality of connection lines adapters or receptacles (see

Art Unit: 2182

[0035], “label has an antenna” for “identification”); and a display device, connected to a plurality of said antennas, comprising memory means for storing a wiring table indicative of desired mutual relationship between said addresses information of said adapters or receptacles and said identification information of the connector plugs (see Page 4, [0035], “identity of the label is associated with the appliance and thus can serve as the input to a look-up table”), and display means for displaying desired parts of information on the wiring table (see “network controller 160” includes “database 150” which includes “coupling records 151”); said identification information of each of the connector plugs coupled to one of said adapters or receptacles specified from said mutual relationship being displayed on the display means and stored in the memory means.

However, the reference fails to explicitly teach a “memory function unit”. The reference teaches devices “130” and appliance “902” but are not specified as “memory units”. In addition, the reference fails to teach a “data processing and display device”. It does teach, however, a display device (see Figure 6). As for these limitations, Jang teaches a line management system, where memory units are connected and the antennas transmit and receive the tags attached to the connectors. In addition, Jang teaches transmission of the tag identification to a remote computer (“data processing and display device”). At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the cited disclosures in order to implement a line management system in a network including optical fiber, as taught by Jang. The combination would have also provided transmission of ID information together with adapter information to the remote computer, as taught by Jang.

Art Unit: 2182

11. Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shteyn [US 2002/0169914 A1] in view of Jang [KR 2004006551 A], in further view of Stillwell, et al. [US 6,361,357 B1].

As per claim 2, the combination of references does not teach indicators in order to be on-off switched in accordance with desired switching timing, which is controlled by a control signal from the data processing and displaying device. As for this limitation, Stillwell et al. teaches a functionally illuminated connector plug (see col. 8, line 14) which is set to on/off and used in network adapters, providing information as to connection speed (see col. 8, lines 29-37). At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the combination of references in order to obtain a plug capable of indicating an attribute of a device or system to which the plug is connected, as taught by Stillwell et al. (see col. 8, lines 19-20).

As for claim 3, the combination of references does not teach indicators in two different colors of one safe color and the other questioned color, as claimed. Stillwell et al. teaches functional illumination, including two LEDs of different colors (see col. 8, lines 20-23). This “functional illumination” indicates whether a device is inserted or connected properly (whether it is “safe”) in a system (see col. 8, lines 38-39). At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the combination of references for the reasons stated above.

Art Unit: 2182

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angel L. Casiano whose telephone number is 571-272-4142. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 571-272-4083. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alc
15 September 2005


KIM HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

9/16/05
